

Fall River Ridge Cross-Country Ski Trails

Parking for the Fall River Ridge Ski Trail System is located at the end of the plowed section of Cave Falls Road, 11 miles east of Ashton, Idaho. The parking lot is also a trailhead for snowmobiles heading towards Yellowstone National Park. Idaho Park N' Ski permits are required for skiers and permits can be obtained at any Forest Service Office, Harriman State Park and Ashton businesses. The trailhead is directly south of the parking lot and the trail system consists of 3 loops in the Caribou-Targhee National Forest. Forest Service personnel usually groom the 8-mile (13 km) trail system weekly. Trail maps are posted at the numbered trail intersections.

The trail system runs over moderate terrain, through lodgepole and aspen, for less than half the distance. The remainder is in open or semi-open areas. Scenic vistas are present. Several species of wildlife such as moose, coyote, snowshoe hare, porcupine and grouse may be seen on occasion. There are ample opportunities for longer trips, off the trail, through open country, when snow conditions permit.

Loop 1 - 2.2 miles or 3.5 km (Round trip from the trailhead)

This is an excellent trail for the beginning skier. The terrain is mostly flat, with a few short gentle slopes making it a great place to learn.

Difficulty level – Easiest

Loop 2 - 3.4 miles or 5.5 km (Round trip from the trailhead)

This trail is mostly intermediate level skiing with a few short places for the advanced skier. The terrain is generally flat with some moderate slopes through trees and open meadows. Combining loops 1 and 2 results in a ski of 3.8 miles (6.1 km).

Difficulty level – More Difficult

Loop 3 - 7.1 miles or 9.7 km (Round trip from the trailhead)

Loop 3 is mostly intermediate level skiing with a few areas for the advanced skier. The terrain is flat through open meadows with a few moderate slopes. This loop provides an excellent opportunity for endurance skiing because of its location and length. The loop is easier to ski in a clockwise direction to avoid a fast descent on a narrow trail (see map). Combining loops 2 and 3 yields a ski of 7.2 miles (11.6 km) and skiing the perimeter of the trail system yields a distance of 7.6 miles (12.2 km).

Difficulty level – More Difficult

Revised 1-2004